

Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Functions Definitions

(adapted from MCH Bureau draft, 8/1/97)

Direct Health Services C Those services generally delivered one-on-one between a health professional and a patient in an office, clinic or emergency room. Basic services include what most consider ordinary medical care, inpatient and outpatient medical services, allied health services, drugs, laboratory testing, x-ray services, dental care, and pharmaceutical products and services. State Title V programs support C by directly operating programs or by funding local providers C services such as prenatal care, child health including immunizations and treatment or referrals, school health and family planning. For CSHCN, these services include specialty and sub-specialty care for those with HIV/AIDS, hemophilia, birth defects, chronic illness, and other conditions requiring sophisticated technology, access to highly trained specialists, or an array of services not generally available in most communities.

Enabling Services C Services that allow or provide for individual access to and the derivation of benefits from, the array of basic health care services and include such things as outreach, case management, health education, transportation, translation, home visiting, smoking cessation, nutrition, support services, and others. These services are especially required for the low income, disadvantaged, geographically or culturally isolated, and those with special and complicated health needs. For many of these individuals, the enabling services are essential C for without them access is not possible. Enabling services most commonly provided by agencies for CSHCN include transportation, care coordination, translation services, home visiting, and family outreach. Family support activities include parent support groups, family training workshops, advocacy, nutrition and social work.

Population Based Services C Preventive interventions and personal health services, developed and available for the entire MCH population of the State rather than for individuals in a one-on-one situation. Disease prevention, health promotion, and statewide outreach are major components. Common among these services are immunization campaigns, injury prevention, lead poisoning prevention and screening programs, outreach and public education, newborn metabolic screening, and counseling for a family whose infant has died from SIDS. These services are generally available whether the mother or child receives care in the private or public system, in a rural clinic or an HMO, and whether insured or not.

Infrastructure Building Services C The services that are the base of the MCH pyramid of health services and form its foundation are activities directed at improving and maintaining the health status of all women and children by providing support for development and maintenance of comprehensive health services systems including development and maintenance of health services standards/guidelines, training, data and planning systems. Examples include needs assessment, evaluation, planning, policy development, coordination, quality assurance, standards development, monitoring, training, research, and developing systems of care and information systems.

Pregnant Woman C A female from conception to 60 days after birth, delivery, or expulsion of fetus.

Infants C Children under one year of age not included in any other class of individuals.

Children C A child from 1st birthday through the 21st year, who is not otherwise included in any other class of individuals.

All Others C Women of childbearing age, over age 21, and any others defined by the State and not otherwise included in any of the other listed classes of individuals